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**BREAUX: CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE FRITCHIE MARSH PROJECT**

WASHINGTON (Nov. 3) - Construction has started on the Fritchie Marsh Project, a “Breux Act” coastal wetlands restoration project located about 8 miles southeast of Slidell, Louisiana, in an area of coastal marsh that was continually deteriorating and becoming less and less productive. This area of coastal wetlands near the Louisiana/Mississippi border is almost totally surrounded by highways.

“The marsh has been deprived of good, fresh water, and was becoming stagnant,” said Sen. Breux. “The project will improve the water quality of the area through the installation of water management structures and channel enlargement of Salt Bayou. It will become a better area not only for fish and wildlife, but also a more beautiful, productive area for the residents of the north shore and others who use the area.”

In 1990, Senator John Breux authored a landmark legislation to fund coastal wetlands protection and conservation projects, known as the Breux Act. The Fritchie Marsh Project is one of the latest projects to be installed under the Act.

Don Gohmert state conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service said this particular coastal restoration project will enhance and protect about 1,000 acres of marsh. One concrete culvert, one fixed crest weir with a boat bay, and approximately 5,700 feet of channel will be enlarged through this project. The work is being done in cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and has received tremendous support and assistance from the local landowners, City of Slidell, St. Tammany Parish Police Jury and the Bogue-Chitto Pearl River Soil and Water Conservation District.

The “Breux Act” gives the highest priority to Louisiana since the state has about 40 percent of all the coastal wetlands in the continental United States and experiences 80 percent of the national total coastal wetland loss.

Senator John Breux has long been active in wetlands protection and conservation and the Fritchie Marsh Project is the latest project that joins the long list of other coastal restoration projects that have been installed over the past 10 years of implementing his legislation.